Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

DRC-01 /097 W

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R 121115Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

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INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR. SF

SUBJ: BLACKS TO ATTEND UNGA AS SAG OBSERVERS

- 1. DURING SEPT 10 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FONMIN MULLER ANNOUNCED THAT CHIEF MINISTER OF SOON-TO-BE INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI HOMELAND, KAISER MATANZIMA, WOULD ATTEND UNGA AS OBSERVER MEMBER SA DELEGATION. OTHER OBSERVERS NAMED ARE DR. M.B. NAIDOO, ELDERLY INDIAN GEOGRAPHER, AND DAN ULSTER, PRINCIPAL OF COLORED TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL.
- 2. MULLER ALSO STATED THAT HENCEFORTH BLACKS, COLOREDS AND INDIANS WILL BE TRAINED FOR DIPLOMATIC AND INFORMATION SERVICE ABROAD. GOVERNMENT THEORY IS THAT BLACKS WILL ULTIMATELY REPRESENT INDEPENDENT HOMELANDS. TRAINING FOR COLOREDS AND INDIANS "IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY TO GIVE THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES AFFECTING

ALL PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA." GOVERNMENT'S DECISION MET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY UNITED PARTY, WHICH HAS BEEN URGING SIMILAR MOVE FOR SOME YEARS. COLORED LEADERS, SUSPICIOUS OF GOVT INTENTIONS, HAVE BEEN LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT HAVE NOT CRITICIZED MOVE.

- 3. MATANZIMA IS CHIEF MINISTER OF TRANSKEI HOMELAND, WHICH HE RAPIDLY PUSHING TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE WITH ASSISTANCE OF SAG. HE IS CONSIDERED AN OPPORTUNIST BY OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS, WHO VIEW SAG'S"SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT" POLICY AS A FARCE. NAIDOO (69) IS MEMBER OF SAG-APPOINTED INDIAN COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD. A GEOGRAPHER OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTE HE IS EXTREMELY POLISHED, DIGNIFIED ELDER OF DURBAN'S UPPER CLASS INDIAN COMMUNITY. ULSTER IS PRINCIPAL OF WELL-KNOWN COLORED TEACHER TRAINING SCHOOL, ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN AND ORGANIZER OF COLORED TEACHERS UNION. LIKE NAIDOO HE IS FAIR REPRESENTATIVE OF MODERATE, APOLITICAL "ESTABLISHMENT," ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE LOT OF OWN PEOPLE BY "GETTING ALONG."
- 5. COMMENT: MOVE IS NOT MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH ON RACE RELATIONS THAT GOVERNMENT TOUTS IT TO BE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS SMALL STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION AND SHOULD BE WELCOMED AS SUCH. WHETHER ANY MEANINGFUL CHANGE IN OVER-ALL RACE PICTURE DEVELOPS FROM IT DEPENDS, OF COURSE, ON SUBSEQUENT AND MUCH LARGER STEPS GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE AND WHICH RIGHT NOW SAG APPEARS UNWILLING TO DO. FATE OF THREE OBSERVERS AT UN DIFFICULT TO CONTEMPLATE. MATANZIMA, WHO REPORTEDLY ASKED TO BE NAMED TO DELEGATION, CAN PROBABLY TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF THOUGH IT POSSIBLE HIS APPEARANCE AT UNGA MIGHT FURTHER PREJUDICE INTERNATIONAL OPINION AGAINST CONCEPT AND ACTUALITY OF INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI, THOUGH ULSTER AND NAIDOO HAVE TOLD PRESS THEY DO NOT VIEW THEM-SELVES AS "STOOGES" OF SAG. THEY WILL PROBABLY HAVE DIFFICULT TIME CONVINCING OTHER UN DELEGATES OF THIS CONTENTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PERSONNEL TRAINING, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MINORITIES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 12 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CAPET00532

Document Number: 1974CAPET00532 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740254-1228 From: CAPE TOWN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740953/aaaabspa.tel Line Count: 97

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: kelleyw0

Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26 JUN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BLACKS TO ATTEND UNGA AS SAG OBSERVERS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, UNGA

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005